

and effective project implementation, including assistance to and oversight of the project director.

(g) *Institutional commitment.* The Secretary reviews each application for evidence that—

(1) The applicant will provide, from any funds available to it, sufficient funds to support the financial needs of the fellows if the funds made available under the program are insufficient;

(2) The institution's social and academic environment is supportive of the academic success of students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds on the applicant's campus;

(3) Students receiving fellowships under this program will receive stipend support for the time necessary to complete their courses of study, but in no case longer than 5 years; and

(4) The applicant demonstrates a financial commitment, including the nature and amount of the institutional matching contribution, and other institutional commitments that are likely to ensure the continuation of project activities for a significant period of time following the period in which the project receives Federal financial assistance.

(h) *Quality of key personnel.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of key personnel the applicant plans to use on the project, including—

(1) The qualifications of the project director;

(2) The qualifications of other key personnel to be used in the project;

(3) The time commitment of key personnel, including the project director, to the project; and

(4) How the applicant, as part of its nondiscriminatory employment practices, will ensure that its personnel are selected without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, or disabling condition, except pursuant to a lawful affirmative action plan.

(i) *Budget.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the extent to which—

(1) The applicant shows a clear understanding of the acceptable uses of program funds; and

(2) The costs of the project are reasonable in relation to the objectives of the project.

(j) *Evaluation plan.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the quality of the evaluation plan for the project, including the extent to which the applicant's methods of evaluation—

(1) Relate to the specific goals and measurable objectives of the project;

(2) Assess the effect of the project on the students receiving fellowships under this program, including the effect on persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds, genders, and ages, and on persons with disabilities who are served by the project;

(3) List both process and product evaluation questions for each project activity and outcome, including those of the management plan;

(4) Describe both the process and product evaluation measures for each project activity and outcome;

(5) Describe the data collection procedures, instruments, and schedules for effective data collection;

(6) Describe how the applicant will analyze and report the data so that it can make adjustments and improvements on a regular basis; and

(7) Include a time-line chart that relates key evaluation processes and benchmarks to other project component processes and benchmarks.

(k) *Adequacy of resources.* The Secretary reviews each application to determine the adequacy of the resources that the applicant makes available to graduate students receiving fellowships under this program, including facilities, equipment, and supplies.

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1840-0604)

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135-1135c)

[58 FR 65842, Dec. 16, 1993, as amended at 70 FR 13375, Mar. 21, 2005]

§ 648.32 What additional factors does the Secretary consider?

(a) *Continuation awards.* (1) Before funding new applications, the Secretary gives preference to grantees requesting their second or third year of funding.

(2) If appropriations for this program are insufficient to fund all continuation grantees for the second and third years at the approved funding level, the Secretary prorates the available

§ 648.33

34 CFR Ch. VI (7–1–11 Edition)

funds, if any, among the continuation grantees and, if necessary, awards continuation grants of less than \$100,000.

(b) *Equitable distribution.* In awarding grants, the Secretary will, consistent with an allocation of awards based on the quality of competing applications, ensure the following:

(1) An equitable geographic distribution of grants to eligible applicant institutions of higher education.

(2) An equitable distribution of grants to eligible applicant public and eligible applicant private institutions of higher education.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135–1135c)

§ 648.33 What priorities and absolute preferences does the Secretary establish?

(a) For each application period, the Secretary establishes as an area of national need and gives absolute preference to one or more of the general disciplines and sub-disciplines listed as priorities in the appendix to this part or the resulting interdisciplines.

(b) The Secretary announces the absolute preferences in a notice published in the *FEDERAL REGISTER*.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135, 1135a)

Subpart D—How Are Fellows Selected?

§ 648.40 How does an academic department select fellows?

(a) In selecting individuals to receive fellowships, an academic department shall consider only individuals who—

(1) Are currently enrolled as graduate students, have been accepted at the grantee institution, or are enrolled or accepted as graduate students at an eligible nondegree-granting institution;

(2) Are of superior ability;

(3) Have an excellent academic record;

(4) Have financial need;

(5) Are planning to pursue the highest possible degree available in their course of study;

(6) Are planning a career in teaching or research;

(7) Are not ineligible to receive assistance under 34 CFR 75.60; and

(8)(i) Are United States citizens or nationals;

(ii) Are permanent residents of the United States;

(iii) Provide evidence from the Immigration and Naturalization Service that they are in the United States for other than a temporary purpose with the intention of becoming permanent residents; or

(iv) Are citizens of any one of the Freely Associated States.

(b) An individual who satisfies the eligibility criteria in paragraph (a) of this section, but who attends an institution that does not offer the highest possible degree available in the individual's course of study, is eligible for a fellowship if the individual plans to attend subsequently an institution that offers this degree.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135, 1135b)

[58 FR 65842, Dec. 16, 1993, as amended at 64 FR 13487, Mar. 18, 1999]

§ 648.41 How does an individual apply for a fellowship?

An individual shall apply directly to an academic department of an institution of higher education that has received a grant.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135, 1135c)

Subpart E—How Does the Secretary Distribute Funds?

§ 648.50 What are the Secretary's payment procedures?

(a) The Secretary awards to the institution of higher education a stipend and an institutional payment for each individual awarded a fellowship under this part.

(b) If an academic department of an institution of higher education is unable to use all of the amounts available to it under this part, the Secretary reallots the amounts not used to academic departments of other institutions of higher education for use in the academic year following the date of the reallotment.

(Authority: 20 U.S.C. 1135a, 1135c, 1135d)

§ 648.51 What is the amount of a stipend?

(a) For a fellowship initially awarded for an academic year prior to the academic year 1993–94, the institution